



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

5 June 1985

I enclose a copy of a letter from Sir Woodrow Wyatt to Mr. MacGregor, about which we spoke this morning. As you will see, the Prime Minister has asked me to contact Mr. MacGregor immediately about _____ and the others on the list. Since you are in touch with Mr. MacGregor about these cases and your Secretary of State is seeing him this afternoon, we agreed that it would be best if your Secretary of State were to raise this with Mr. MacGregor; but he could certainly say that he has been asked by the Prime Minister to do so.

Since Sir Woodrow Wyatt's letter is marked "Strictly Personal and Confidential", I should be grateful if you could ensure that it does not go beyond your office and that of Mr. Hunt.

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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
ACT 2000

Geoff Dart, Esq.,
Department of Energy.

19 CAVENDISH AVENUE
LONDON NW8 9JD

01 286 9020

Prime Minister -
to see

PM
AM
W/S

STRICTLY PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

4th June 1985

I. MacGregor, Esq.,
Chairman,
NCB,
Hobart House,
Grosvenor Place,
London SW1.

Robin - please
contact Mr. Inge
immediately about

Dear Ian MacGregor,

I had another visit from working miners last night. It seems quite clear that local management is not always carrying out instructions from above.

For example, _____ at Barnborough Colliery has been told to report for interview on Friday to receive his redundancy papers. He does not want redundancy he wants a transfer, preferably to Selby. He is aged thirty-three and does not want to be thrown out of the coal industry. Like other working miners he has observed the preferential treatment given to the striking miners.

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MF

I think you have already had a list of some twenty-four young working miners all threatened with redundancy because they want to have a transfer away from the pits where their life has been made unbearable and where local management does nothing to stop the harassment. I now enclose a new list of men between the ages of thirty and forty who have been told that they are not to be allowed transfers to other pits but must apply for redundancy if they are not prepared to be victimised for the rest of their working lives. The enclosed list is (A).

/ ..

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I do hope that effective action will be taken with local management to allow all those young men on the List (A) to be allowed to transfer rather than to continue in the hell that their work is at the moment. They have all been told that if they are not prepared to live in hell at their present pits they must be made redundant. I am sure you will agree this is a monstrous betrayal of your working miners.

There is one case that I feel something particularly ought to be done about. In Yorkshire he persuaded thousands of miners back to work long before the strike ended. He was then the darling of the Coal Board. He had an excellent job on the wages side. He has now been removed from that job and is earning £85.00 a week less. He wanted a job in Selby but was refused it. This poor man who did so much for you and the Coal Board is now being forced to give up his motor car which was his pride, for he cannot maintain the instalments owing to the savage cut in pay inflicted on him by the Coal Board in return for all he did for them. Incidentally for the last month his take home pay has been a total of £257 after deductions. The man to whom his job was given received £900 in the same period. How can we expect people who helped so loyally ~~who~~ ^{to} Scargill's strike a failure to do it again after the promises of the Coal Board to look after the working miners are so blatantly being broken?

I understand that Garfield Main, Yorkshire is under consideration for closure. You may be interested to know that according to my information the manager ^{is} ~~is~~ ^{supplied} the NUM with as much information, figures, etc. as he can for them to be able to fight the closure. I think you must face it a lot of your local management are not in accord with your policies and in cahoots with the local NUM.

/...

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Scargill is working very hard to organise a disciplined union to fight for revolution not only in the coal industry but in other industries. Our friends who would combat him are being deliberately disillusioned by local Coal Board management. I had several letters from working miners and their wives saying that after the Coal Board's treatment at the end of the strike they would never cross a picket line again.

Yours sincerely

Woodrow Lyall

P.S. This morning I spoke to _____ and told him to refuse to accept redundancy at the interview to process his redundancy he has been called to on Friday at 9.30 am. I shall advise any other working miners now being sacked by local management to do the same.

Etc.

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